

Cahaba River

National Wildlife Refuge

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Refuge Facts

- Established May 13, 2002.

Acres: 1,285.

Complex Headquarters:
Wheeler NWR, Decatur,
Alabama.

- Location: Just north of the confluence of the Little Cahaba and Cahaba Rivers to just north of the Piper Bridge in Bibb County about five miles east of West Blocton, Alabama.

Natural History

- The Cahaba River stretches for almost 200 miles and is Alabama's longest free-flowing stream. The river currently supports 64 rare and imperiled plant and animal species, 13 of which are found nowhere else in the world.
- The 4.4 miles of river which lie within the approved acquisition boundary are extremely rich in species diversity and provide habitat for five federally listed threatened or endangered species.
- The rolling uplands surrounding the river are forested with mountain longleaf and loblolly pines. Mixed upland hardwood species line ravines and the rivers edge.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Presently unstaffed. Proposed staff of six full time employees.
- Administered by Wheeler NWR, Decatur, Alabama

Refuge Objectives

- Preserve and manage a unique section of the biologically significant Cahaba River.
- Protect and manage habitat for five federally listed species including the Cahaba shiner, goldline darter, round rocksnail, and cylindrical lioplax snail.

- Restore planted loblolly pine to native mountain longleaf pine.
- Develop and implement environmental education and interpretation programs focusing on ecosystem management and stewardship.

Management Tools

- Habitat restoration.
- Community partnerships.
- Law enforcement.
- Education/interpretation.
- Research.

Public Use Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Fishing.
- Hiking.
- Photography.
- Canoeing.
- Environmental education.